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Castro Accommodates

US. Effort To Get Him

Castro's statement making it official that Cuba is a "socialist" state contained few surprises.

Certainly there was nothing astounding in the implied admission of communist ties, nor in the statement that he does not intend to let the Cuban people vote in free elections.

However, there may be a reprieve for us in the latter. Despite Secretary of State Dean Rusk's assurances that the U.S. has no plans for other intervention attempts in Cuba, certainly we have not written off to communism a country so close to our shores.

After the recent invasion fiasco, we will have to do better next time. But by subversion or equipping a bigger and more powerful force of counter-revolutionaries, American agencies must continue to try to overthrow Castro, the niceties of non-intervention bedamned.

In this we would be hampered if the Cubans did express their preferences in free elections and chose Castroism and the communist association this implies. That would inject the hallowed principle of self-determination for all peoples, to which we have paid much lip-service. As it stands now, this country can at least predicate counter-revolutionary activity on the contention that Cubans want to be freed of Castro; our efforts are in the cause of liberation.

The Central Intelligence Agency apparently erred and disastrously in concluding that there was widespread popular discontent with Castro and that the people were ready to rise in rebellion at the drop of a few grenades. They displayed no such eagerness.

That was embarrassing enough for America, but it would be severely damaging to future action against Castro if Cubans actually voted to keep him in power — as they well might. In such circumstances, equipping and training another invasion force in this country would be, by anyone's definition, an aggressive act — not the liberation of oppressed people.

We would thus be denied the only currently acceptable rationalization for assisting and directing insurgents and be forced to admit that we are primarily concerned with the security of the U.S.

Divested of the "liberation" cover story, we might as well send the Marines and have done with pretense.

Castro may thus perform a service in banning elections so that we can continue with the cloak & dagger business of knocking him off one way or another to save the Cuban people from a dictator.

They may not want to be saved, as the CIA thought, but it's better that we don't find that out.